



THE
NATIONAL
SHRINE OF **Mary**
MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



Message from the Chairman of the Board

As we begin the new year of 2023, after having experienced the wonder of the Christmas season and the birth of our Savior and Lord, I begin to think about the year ahead and what it may bring. It causes me to think about what has worked well for me in the past and when I have fallen short. The consistent theme that comes to mind is that when things seem to be going the best for me, it is when I am making a conscience effort to be close to Jesus. When I find myself in the mindset of thinking I can do it myself is when I become frustrated and alone. If I simply take time to think about the many blessings in my life, I soon come to realize that there is no way I could have made that happen on my own. I begin to realize the guidance, direction and help I gained from our Savior. How to be in, remain in, or return to that state of grace also comes to mind. Sometimes it just happens, sometimes I go to a certain place, go to an event or a conference to "get there". Since having moved to the lake, I often find that path to grace, peace and confidence at the Shrine. I feel Mary's loving influence. Time often becomes irrelevant when I am there and I wish not to leave. My wife Georgia often reminds me that Jesus can never deny a request from his Mother, and of the power of her intercession. Many of you already know of this, but may I remind and encourage you that, even in the winter months, you can find Mary's gentle, loving and guiding influence at the Shrine. Please avail yourself to the gift we have of the Mothers' Shrine right here in our back yard and spend some time in front of your mother's name on the wall. If your mother's name is not on the wall, we would be glad to help you with that. Remember also that we will have several pilgrimage opportunities this year, so watch this bulletin page and our website for more details. Please join us at these and other events. Feel free to spend some time at the Shrine and feel the presence of the Blessed Mother. She is right here in our back yard.



Tom Vincent, Chairman